

# **A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Size and Structure of the Family in India**

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# **A Socio-Demographic Analysis of the Size and Structure of the Family in India**

## **ABSTRACT**

This paper is an attempt to study the current size and structure of family according to different socio-demographic and economic characteristics of the households in India and its states. Data are obtained from National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-99 which covered a representative sample from 26 states in the country. Results suggest that proportion of nuclear family households in 1998-99 increased relatively in both urban (9%) and rural areas (12%) as compared to that of in 1981. The mean family household size in India is 5.24 and it varies by the demographic development of the state. This paper tests several socio-demographic hypotheses posed in the context of changing family structure and indicates that caste alone is not a determinant of the joint family system. Rather, the jointness in the family depends on the standard of living and the agricultural land owning status of households in the country.

# **A Socio-Demographic Analysis of Size and Structure of Family in India**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The family is a complex and dynamic institution in India. For many decades, several studies were carried out to understand this complexity. Some of the studies in the past have put forth the proposition of the existence of a joint family in the traditional Indian society (Mandelbaum, 1959; Gore, 1965, 1968). Most of the micro level studies stated joint family in India as one of the common feature among the higher castes (Gough, 1956; Kapadia, 1956; Cohn, 1961; Madan, 1965; Kolenda, 1968; Caldwell et.al., 1988; Shah, 1968, 1996; Srivastava and Nauriyal, 1993). In the past, Nimkoff (1959) stated that in India, the joint family system is traditionally most common among the elite, the higher castes and those with more property. A preference for the joint family is demonstrated clearly in a variety of studies by urban and rural people, across caste and class (Ames, 1969; Conklin, 1976a & b, 1988; Khatri, 1975). District wise analysis of selected states in India by Kolenda and Haddon (1987) revealed that high joint family districts have more hindus and substantially fewer Christians than the low joint family districts. In a study conducted in Karnataka, Caldwell et.al. (1984) showed that, the joint families are more common among those households with some agricultural land.

However, some researchers have negated these views and stated that joint family was never a dominant form and that all types of families (joint, nuclear, single and other

relationships) existed in India (Goode, 1968; Rao, Kulkarni and Rayappa, 1986). Also, it is argued that the joint family is now slowly giving a way to nuclear families, still many functional relationships with the non-residential family members are maintained in nuclear family set-up (Agarwala, 1962; Desai, 1964; Gore, 1968; Kapadia, 1969). The divergence towards nuclear family has been reasoned to be the result of industrialization and the subsequent urbanization (Agarwala, 1962; Cohen, 1981). Various sociologists and anthropologists (Parsons, 1949, 1961; Linton, 1952; Weber, 1950; Goode, 1963) have argued that the family type functionally consistent with modern, urban industrial economy is the nuclear family, that composed of a couple and their unmarried children. Niranjana et.al. (1998) stated that over the years, such type of nuclear families are on rise in almost all parts of the country. Studies that support the hypothesis of a transition from joint to nuclear family generally establish a correlation between a family and a specific variable (S.A.Freed and R.S.Freed, 2000). For example, a study by Yadava (1966) demonstrates the family heads who hold non-traditional jobs that pay a cash income and provide relative economic independence are much more likely to head a nuclear family than those who follow traditional occupations. Goode (1968) mentioned that education, especially if it stressed Western values, could well be a force in causing brothers and sons to end not only joint residence, but also the jointly owned property.

The joint family transforming into nuclear family controversy is further complicated by problems of definition and by a scarcity of macro-level studies that involve a significant time dimension. In her comparison of 26 studies of Indian family types, Kolenda (1968) notes that no two social scientists used the same definitions. Formally, the family types

in India were classified conveniently in many of the studies as nuclear and joint families (Dube, 1955; Morrison, 1959; Kapadia, 1969). Gore (1968) attempted to differentiate between joint and nuclear families on the basis of their behaviour patterns and attitudes. He felt that the division of families into joint and nuclear was somewhat crude and arbitrary. Richard et.al. (1985) and Caldwell et.al. (1988) defined family structure into nuclear, stem, joint, joint-stem and others. The Census of India publication defined family structure as single member, nuclear, broken nuclear, supplemented nuclear, and joint families (Charkravorty and Singh, 1991). Different definitions of family structure are used by different social science researchers and the present study considers the definitions given by Chakravorty and Singh (1991) and attempts to give the changing and present family structure in India.

A micro level study attempted to understand the relationships between urbanization and family type concluded that there was no significant difference in family types between families headed by city-oriented men and those headed by village-oriented men (S.A.Freed and R.S.Freed, 2000a). Kolenda (1967) in her study of thirteen regions of India based on thirty-two publications, attempted an analysis of factors influencing the family types, but she concluded, that there was no universal association with any of the factors like landownership, caste identity, etc. and the prevalence of joint or nuclear families. This study failed to bring out the causal association between certain possible relevant variables and family structure. Thus, barring a few studies, data for research on family structure in India have primarily been drawn from the micro level studies. Studies at macro level describing the types of family in India and its states are scarce. The macro

level understanding on the relationships between family type and possibly relevant variables, such as age, sex, education of head of the household, wealth, ownership of agricultural land, caste, religion, and place of residence are almost non-existent in India due to unavailability of appropriate data. This paper is an attempt in this direction and further tries to understand the independent association of each variable with nuclear family after controlling for other variables. This study addresses the following research questions: 1) Is convergence to a nuclear household system occurring in India? 2) Is there a positive association between education and the presence of a spouse (nuclear) but an inverse association between education and presence of adult married son/daughter? 3) Is the agricultural land owning status the cause for joint family system? 4) Do higher castes follow the joint family systems than the lower castes even today? In addition, this paper attempts to study the average family size in India and its states.

This paper introduces the data and definitions of family composition that are used. The first section in the paper describes the average size of the family in India and its states. The second section expresses the dynamic changes that occurred in the family structure between 1981, 1992-93, and 1998-99. The third section deals on the differentials in family structure according to different socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the household. The fourth section briefly describes the determinants of family structure in India and its states. Discussion and concluding remarks are presented in the last section.

## **DATA**

The NFHS survey undertaken in 1998-99 covered a representative sample with coverage of more than 99 per cent of the population from 26 states that existed at that time (IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000). The primary objective of the survey is to provide national and state-level data on different demographic and socio-economic determinants with respect to family planning, maternal and child health indicators. Two-stage, stratified PPS (Probability Proportion to Size) sampling procedure is used to select the households in each state. This survey is similar to demographic and health surveys (DHS) in other countries. The survey collected the information at three levels: village, household and individual levels. The main objective of the household survey is to identify women of reproductive age who are eligible for a subsequent detailed interview covering demographic and health issues. The household questionnaire collects from an adult a listing of all usual household members and visitors. For each individual, information is collected on age, sex, relationship to head, education level, marital status, and occupation. In addition, household questionnaire also contains information on number of members in the household, households' agricultural land owning status, housing conditions such as type of house, source of water, type of toilet facility, possession of inhouse and outhouse consumer durables, household's religion, caste and place of residence. The household questionnaire was administered to 92,486 households throughout India.

A total of 5,17,379 individuals are listed in the survey in household questionnaire, of which, 4,98,303 are the usual residents. Of these, 2162 (0.4 per cent) usual residents are unrelated (they are either the domestic servants, boarders, and so forth) to the household head. The analysis of the present study is based on the 4,96,141 (from 92,443 households) de jure

population - that is, members who usually reside in the household are included even if they are temporarily absent at the time of the survey, and temporary visitors are excluded. The figures reported above are the unweighted samples; while all the tables are based on the weighted sample. Analysis in this direction facilitates study of changes in family structure from 1981 census (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991) to 1992-93 NFHS survey data (Niranjan et.al., 1998) to the situation in 1998-99.

### **DEFINITIONS USED IN THE PATTERN OF FAMILY STRUCTURE**

The classifications that are used to define family structure (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991; Niranjan et.al., 1998) are:

<b>Type of family*</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Single Member	The respondent who is alone
Broken Nuclear	Head without spouse but with or without unmarried children
Nuclear family	This type of family includes Nuclear pair i.e., Head and Spouse with or without unmarried children
Supplemented Nuclear	It includes three types of families (a) Supplemented Nuclear: Head and spouse with or without unmarried children but with other relations who are not currently having spouses (b) Broken Extended Nuclear: Head without spouse but with other relations of whom only one is having spouse (c) Supplemented Broken Nuclear: Head without spouse with or without unmarried children but with other unmarried/separated/ divorced/widowed relation

Joint family	<p>It includes both lineally extended and Collaterally extended families</p> <p>(a) Lineally extended family -- Head and spouse with married son(s)/daughter(s) and their spouses and parents with or without other not currently married relation(s) (OR) Head without spouse but with at least two married son(s)/daughter(s) and their spouses and/or parents with or without other not currently married relations</p> <p>(b) Collaterally extended family -- Head and spouse with married brother(s)/sister(s) and their spouses with or without other relation(s) [including married relation(s)] (OR) Head without spouse but with at least two married brothers/sisters and their spouses with or without other relations</p>
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\* The family refers to all persons who are relatives of the head. It excludes domestic servants, boarders, and so forth: In urban areas of Maharashtra, Goa & New Delhi, the unrelated members are more. The total unrelated members in the survey data in India are 2162 (0.4 per cent) only.

The various background characteristics considered in the analysis are: (1) Place of residence (Urban, Rural); (2) Religion (Hindu, Non-Hindu); (3) Caste (scheduled caste/tribes: SC/ST, Other castes: those who belong to general); (4) Household owning any agricultural land (No, Yes); (5) Standard of Living (Low, Medium, High) : for detailed notes on standard of living index (SLI) measurement, please refer: (IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000); (6) Household head's level of education (Illiterate, Literate up to primary, Literate with middle school and above); (7) Age of the household head (<40 Years, 40-59 Years, 60 years and more); (8) Sex of the household head (Male, Female). Calculation of proportions, and chi-square tests are used to assess the significance of univariate relationships and multiple logistic regression analyses are employed to assess the significance of independent variable relationships on the chances of staying in nuclear family.

## **DIFFERENTIALS IN FAMILY SIZE**

### **Mean Family Size**

The average family size in India in 1961 was 5.1, increased to 5.6 in 1981 (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991), having dropped to only 5.4 in 1998-99, which is 1.4 times higher than the family size of China in 1995. In China, the average family household size in 1995 was 3.7 members per household (Zeng, 2002). The total mean family household size in urban areas in India is 5.16 and rural areas is 5.47 members per household (Table 1). The rural-urban differential in the mean family size is quite visible in the data indicating higher fertility in rural areas. Barring few states, almost the similar picture is evident in rural-urban differences in all the states of India as is seen for India as a whole. Further the distribution of family size by type of family reveals the mean size of 7.93 in the urban areas and 8.16 in the rural areas among joint families and 3.35 and 3.24 respectively among broken nuclear families. The nuclear family household has the mean family household size of 4.39 in urban areas and 4.54 members per household in rural areas (Figure 1).

(Figure 1 about here)

The average family household size is significantly higher in almost all the less developed states in India. The states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan have average household size greater than six. On the other hand, the southern states of India including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu have average household size of five or less with few exceptions for rural areas in these states. The southern states of India are either

close to or have reached the replacement level of fertility, which is reflected in the family household size. Family household size is found to be relatively uniform across the country in the case of broken nuclear, nuclear, and supplemented nuclear type families. In the joint families, the household size is significantly higher than the national average in some of the states in eastern, central and northern India. Family household size in the state of Tamil Nadu is consistently lower as compared to national average across all types of families.

(Table 1 about here)

#### **CHANGES IN FAMILY STRUCTURE SINCE 1981**

Figure 2 compares percentage distributions of major family household types between 1981, 1992-93, and 1998-99. In the absence of same source of information longitudinally, an attempt has been made to compare the composition of family at the time of 1981 census (Chakravorty and Singh, 1991) to the national family health survey in 1992-93 and 1998-99 (IIPS, 1995; IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000). Definitions used in the classification of family household types are same across all the sources of data. State level data on type of family for both urban and rural areas during 1981 and 1992-93 was published elsewhere (Niranjan et.al., 1998).

(Figure 2 about here)

The percent of nuclear family households has increased significantly over the years in India. The proportion of nuclear family households in urban areas in 1998-99 increased by 1.1 percent (9% increase in relative terms), as compared to that of 1981; a 3 per cent relative increase as compared to that of 1992-93. In rural areas, the proportion of nuclear families increased relatively by 12 and 3.5 per cent as compared to that of 1981 and 1992-93 respectively (Figure 2). This clearly indicates that the increase in nuclear families is relatively faster in rural areas than in urban areas. It may be due to the adoption of urban culture in rural areas in the country. But, the researchers (Desai, 1955, 1964; Gore, 1965; Khatri, 1975; Kurian, 1976; Lakshminarayana, 1982; Singh, 1988) in earlier studies have mentioned that through urbanization, migration, education, employment of women and other structural changes have occurred in the appearance of industrialization, but the jointness among the families continues. The empirical evidence in this study also supports the fact that the joint family system is continuing but is considerably lower percentages among total family structure when compared to the nuclear families. Nuclear families over the years have shown a significant increase in the proportions. There is a substantial decline in single member and broken nuclear families in India.

## **DIFFERENTIALS IN FAMILY STRUCTURE**

### **By Rural-Urban Residence**

The rural-urban classifications of families in India as well as individual states (except in a few northeastern states) reveal a more or less similar trend except the fact that the percentage of joint families is more in rural areas when compared to urban areas (Table

2). Conversely, the percentage of nuclear families is slightly higher in urban areas. Thus, in urban areas around half (51.4 percent) of the families are nuclear, one fifth of the families are joint and an equal percentage are supplemented nuclear families. In the rural areas, the data illustrates that a little less than half (48 per cent) of the families are nuclear, one-fourth (25.1 percent) of the families are joint; one-fifth (20.8 percent) of the families are supplemented nuclear families. The percentage of singles as well as broken nuclear families together is only 7 per cent in urban and 6 per cent in rural areas. The percentage of single-parent nuclear households is less frequent in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Interestingly, among the single parent nuclear families in urban areas in 1998-99, about 84 per cent were single-mother headed; and the rest were single father headed families. In rural areas, the corresponding percentages are 77 and 23. These single parent families are majorly the middle-aged (40-59 years) parent with a high widowhood and divorce rates. The rural-urban differential in single parent families demonstrate that such social phenomenon is more popular in developed societies (urban areas) than in less developed societies (rural areas).

(Table 2 about here)

In different major states of India, in 1998-99, the percentage of nuclear families in the urban areas is high in Haryana (57.7 per cent) and is low in the case of Rajasthan (45.3 per cent). While in the rural areas it is high in Tamil Nadu (54.0 per cent) and low in the case of Rajasthan (42.5 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (43.6 per cent). A high proportion of joint families evidenced from Table 2 in the states of Rajasthan and Bihar could possibly

indicate the existing traditional norms in the society, in addition to the lack of significant occupational mobility among the people in urban areas and the agricultural land owning in rural areas. The proportion of single member families is significantly higher in urban areas than in rural areas in most of the Indian states. This empirical work corroborates many of the studies on family structure which state that during the industrialization and urbanization period, the joint family system is not the norm of India, while, nuclear and supplemented nuclear families are on rise (Agarwala, 1962; Gore, 1968; Kapadia, 1969; Rao, Kulkarni and Rayappa, 1986). Supplemented nuclear families, which are supported by direct relatives of either of the spouses is another important type of family in India. Interestingly, in the regions of South, West, East and Northeast, the proportion of supplemented nuclear families are higher than the joint type of families. Plausible reasons could be: migration of the individuals for work/education to other places which changes the composition of the family at both the origin and the destination. Also it could be associated with the early/late widowhood, divorce/separation, work status of both wife and husband (child grow up at either wife's or husband's natal family) which changes the composition of their natal family. This type of family is subject to change indicating that changing family structure is complex and often they are short-term changes.

### **By Sex of head of the family**

The proportion of households headed by females is substantial in few of the states; 23 per cent in Goa, 22 per cent in Kerala, 17 percent in Himachal Pradesh, 16 percent in Tamil Nadu, and 15 percent in Meghalaya, Manipur, and Mizoram (Table 3). A significant

proportion of female-headed households in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are either single or broken nuclear. On the contrary, uniformly across the states, males head the nuclear and joint families. In India, in many cultures and communities, the breadwinner who are commonly the males are reported as the head of the family irrespective of nuclear or joint families. Due to this, even if a female partner is working in nuclear or joint families, the frequent practice in the society forces the males to be reported as head of the family. Single parent families are the most commonly found alternate female-headed family form in most parts of the world. They are defined as those families in which the children usually are dependents, reside with one parent who often become over burdened economically due to the major responsibility of upbringing the children.

(Table 3 about here)

In India as well as many of its states, more than ninety per cent of the single parent families (Broken nuclear families) are female headed families, vis-a-vis families in which the female member is the major earner, protector and decision maker. The single parent families in India are formed mainly due to the death of the spouse (89 per cent), separation (5.7 per cent) and desertion/divorce (5.3 per cent). Thus, relatively high adult male mortality and increasing divorce rates could be plausible reasons for such evidence in the country.

### **By Age of head of the family**

Table 4 illustrates the percentage distribution of family structure according to the age of head of the family. As expected, age of head of the family has a significant association with the family structure. Joint families are found to be more among the older ones where the age of the head of family is over 60 years (39.7 per cent). However, only 32.5 per cent of the middle aged (40-60 years) heads maintain joint families, and the corresponding percentage among younger ones (<40 years) is 20. Approximately three-fifths of the families where the age of the head of family is less than 40 years are nuclear type in many of the states in India. A large majority of heads of the families where the age is over 60 years are men (72 percent); of which, 70 per cent had their spouses living with them. Among the elderly widowed, about 57 per cent females are head of the family as against 43 per cent male headed ones. In India, if the elderly male persons are currently married with spouse and surviving children and their spouses (more similar to joint family system), it is high likely that they become the head of the family irrespective of whether they are economically active or not. Most of the females who were head of the households aged 60 years and above were widowed and are living in supplemented nuclear families (50 per cent). In India, the elderly females are often seen in supplemented nuclear or joint families (75 per cent); of these, only 17 per cent have been reported to be the head of the household. It clearly suggests that the elderly women are more likely to be economically dependent and widowed (94 per cent); they are more likely requested by their children to live along with them in order to take care of their children and other household chores. Proportion of female headed families with age over

60 years is high in the states of Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In these states, the life expectancy of females as well as status of women is relatively higher. Also, as age increases the single member family also increases as is observed from the table. In the younger ages (<40 years) only one percent belong to single families when compared to 11.9 percent single families in the elderly ages. The percentage of single elderly is as high as 25.7 percent in Tamil Nadu. In southern states of India, most of the elderly widowed females prefer to stay in single or broken nuclear families rather to be part of other family systems (supplemented nuclear or joint family), where they are requested or entrusted by the other members of the family to take the responsibility of house and small children.

(Table 4 about here)

#### **By Education of head of the family**

In the present analysis, education of head of the family seems to have significant association with the type of family in India. A gradual increase is observed in the percentage of nuclear families across the three education levels viz., illiterate, literate upto primary and secondary education. When the head of the family is illiterate, only 45 percent head the nuclear families, the relative percentage for the heads who are educated upto secondary school, is 54 percent (Table 5). A considerable proportion of people stay in single or broken nuclear families when the literacy levels are low. In the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa, education has not shown any association with the presence of a nuclear family. This probably could be due to the existing traditional

practices and low age at marriage. In the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, singulate mean age at marriage for females is 18.8 and 19 years respectively. Also, the males in these states need not necessarily be engaged in individual economic activity (or) job before marriage. On the contrary, in the southern states and some of the states in Western India, and some in Northern India, show an increasing proportion of nuclear families with the increase in educational level of the head of the family. In this context, it may be argued that the nuclear family system is strongly associated with education. Data further suggest that across different educational levels of head of the households, significantly a high proportion of families are joint if they own agricultural land (35 per cent) as compared to those who do not own any agricultural land (25 per cent).

(Table 5 about here)

### **By standard of living**

Analysis of type of family against the standard of living of the household brings out certain distinct features. The results indicate that nuclear families are more common among low standard of living families. Fifty five percent of nuclear families belong to low standard of living as against only 43.4 percent who belong to high standard of living. Supplementing the results, the percentages of joint families are more commonly seen among high standard of living families (33.5 per cent). One of the features observed in India as well as in different states is that the higher percentage of single households belongs to low standard of living (Table 6). Joint families are common in cities. The kinship ties could be crucial in assisting to get scarce jobs or provide financial assistance.

It is true in both urban and rural areas that the joint families are the common family form among high standard of living households irrespective of which caste they belong to or what level of education the head of the household has.

(Table 6 about here)

### **By Religion**

The results for India as a whole depict the absence of religious differentials in family structure. Non-Hindu households have a slightly higher percentage of nuclear families when compared to Hindu households (Table 7). The non-Hindu groups include Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and few other religions (Parsi, Doni-polo, Sanamahi). In North India, except in the states of Jammu and Punjab it is observed that the percentage of nuclear families is slightly higher among non-Hindu families compared to the Hindu families. Around one third of the families were of the joint type among the non-Hindus residing in Jammu and one fourths were the supplemented nuclear types. A high percentage of families are of the joint type among both Hindus and Non-Hindus in Rajasthan as compared to other states in India. The percentage of single member households among both Hindus and non-Hindus are more in smaller states such as Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. Joint families are seen to be slightly more among the Hindus than the non-Hindus in many of the states.

(Table 7 about here)

## **By Caste**

The percentage distribution of families according to their caste depicts the presence of more nuclear families among the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe in most of the states in India. A little more than half of the families belonging to scheduled caste/scheduled tribes are nuclear, while among other castes it is 48 per cent (Table 8). As evidenced, more proportion of low waged population are prevalent among SC & ST, so always the head of the family tries to push away the married children from his/her house to reduce the family burden. Also, the early age at marriage and high illiteracy and low standard of living are the plausible reasons for greater proportion of nuclear families in scheduled caste/tribe populations than the other castes. The variation in nuclear families between scheduled caste/tribes and other castes is highest in the state of Punjab, followed by Bihar, Orissa, and Himachal Pradesh. Thus, joint families are more commonly seen among the other castes. Gough (1956) explains the differences between the upper and lower castes as, the prior as landholders and the later as wage-earners. The adaptive advantage of joint families in lower castes due to urbanization and industrialization is seen in the recent years. Families of scheduled castes/tribes with high level of education, having agricultural land and belonging to high standard of living have adapted the joint family systems and the proportion of joint families among these categories is almost equivalent to the proportion of joint families among other castes of similar categories. Thus, the differences in the family structure cannot be attributed to caste alone, but is partly due to economic resources and landholding within the castes.

(Table 8 about here)

### **By agricultural land owning**

Caldwell et..al. (1984) study in Karnataka revealed that, among those with no land at all, 71 per cent; with land upto one acre, 65 per cent; with land from one to four acres, 58 per cent; with over four acres 46 per cent are found to live in nuclear families indicating the association between owning of agricultural land and joint family system. In India, about 30 per cent of the total families among those who possess land stay in joint types as against only 17.7 per cent joint families among those who do not possess agricultural land (Table 9). The difference in the proportion of joint families between owning and not owning agricultural land is highest in the states of Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Kerala. In India, 54 and 44 per cent are nuclear families among those who do and do not possess agricultural land. May be that, maintenance of a piece of agricultural land requires more resources and manpower, and hence, the families who possess agricultural land prefer to stay in joint families. Even the supplemented nuclear families are found more among those families possessing agricultural land. The extended family, with married sons staying along with their father has obvious advantages in an agricultural community. Access to the results of the labour of more than one adult member of a household, whether in the form of agricultural produce or wage labour, improves the living standard of the household. This is true in an urban as well as a rural setting. Thus, the study shows that, being in possession of agricultural land increases the likelihood of joint families.

(Table 9 about here)

### **Determinants of Family structure**

This section makes an attempt to study the determinants of family structure. For this, the family structure is classified into two basic categories (0 - Non-nuclear; 1 - Nuclear). Various socio-economic and demographic variables are chosen to study the effect of each independent variable in determining the nuclear family. Analysis was done using logistic regression technique. The results reveal that the family structure is significantly influenced by age and sex of the head of the family in almost all the states of India (Table 10). Besides this, low standard of living and not owning agricultural land have shown to have a positive impact on nuclear family. Education has been observed to play a significant role in determining nuclear family in the western region of India. Religion, caste and urban-rural residence seem to play very less role in determining nuclear family. The multivariate analysis using the joint family as dependent variable (0 - non-joint; 1- joint) also exhibits the similar results as is shown for nuclear family as dependent variable in the table. The agricultural land owning and the high standard of living show a significant positive association with joint family when compared to their respective categories even after controlling for other socio-demographic characteristics of the head of the household. Caste and religion are turned out to be insignificant in this case too. This shows that caste is not a strong significant predictor for determining the family structure in the presence of agricultural land owning status and the economic status of the family.

(Table 10 about here)

## **Discussion**

This study demonstrates that the average family size in India has reduced since 1961, but is currently much higher than China (Zeng, 2002) and other developed countries. Declining fertility levels in recent years is primarily attributed to causing a reduction in the family size. The southern states of India which have lower levels of fertility clearly indicate much smaller family size than the other parts of India. The mean size of joint families is almost two times the mean size of the nuclear families throughout India. Examining the changes that have taken place in the composition of the family since 1981, it is observed that the percentage of nuclear families have increased consistently. Analysis by rural-urban residence in family structure reveals that nuclear families are prominent in urban than in the rural areas. Conclusively, nuclear family households form the core of the Indian family households irrespective of the place of residence (urban or rural).

Significant results are displayed in the study with regard to the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of the households. Family compositions seem to be similar among the Hindus and non-Hindus in India and many of its states. However, a slightly different picture is observed when the relationship between caste and family structure is examined. Slightly, high proportion of joint families was found among the higher caste when compared to the scheduled castes/tribes. The findings in the current study is not in accordance with the findings of previous micro level studies (Kapadia, 1956; Cohn, 1961; Madan, 1965; Kolenda, 1968, 1987) that have stated caste as a significant predictor of the

joint family. Thus, suggesting that the lower caste families who stayed in nuclear families were basically agricultural labourers with no possession of land. However, the current study views caste as a weak factor in predicting the family type when the ownership of land, economic status, age and place of residence are kept constant. Further indepth analysis in the data shows that scheduled caste/tribe families with high economic status, possessing agricultural land, with atleast primary level of education also stay in joint families (36 per cent), which is almost similar to the pattern among higher castes (38 per cent).

Among the other factors, age of the head of the household is significantly associated with the type of family. Younger aged heads the nuclear family while the older aged heads the joint families. Education of the head of the household has shown a significant association with the family structure. As the education of the head of the household increases, he/she is more likely to be in nuclear families as compared to the illiterate or less educated heads. As education increases, opportunities widen and market becomes friendlier pushing people towards industrially developed places. However, as the cost of living tends to be higher in opportune cities, the individuals are compelled to live with their relatives, thus passing way to the formation of supplemented nuclear families. The supplemented nuclear families are one of the most commonly seen family types in India and its states. Proportion of supplemented nuclear families in many of the states in India are almost equal to the proportion of joint families in both urban and rural areas.

Ownership of land is significantly associated with the family type. Families with agricultural land tend to stay more in joint families. These results are in concurrence with the earlier studies (Gough, 1956; Nimkoff, 1959; Caldwell, 1984; Caldwell et.al, 1988; S.A.Freed and R.S.Freed, 2000a). According to Sen (1965) “non-cultivating owners, day labourers, and non-agriculturists have very large proportion of nuclear families when compared to the owner-cultivators and sharecroppers. Similar results are noticed in the current study implying that large proportion of agricultural labourers or job holders or daily wagers by occupation and without agricultural land stay in nuclear families. The households belonging to higher standard of living prefer living in a joint family than in a nuclear family. The detailed analysis of the present data suggests that most of the households belonging to higher standard of living are either the owners of agricultural land or have property in business. Similar to several parts of south-east Asia, the Indian family is also primarily patriarchal in nature and the headship of families as observed in the current study once again confirms the dominance of male than the females in Indian society. The broken nuclear/single parent families are mostly the female-headed families. Studies in India divulge that the women from single parent families are forced to take loans/beg/borrow/get support from relatives (Chakrabarti, 1987; SatyaLeela, 1991; Chen and Dreze, 1992) leading to stress and strain, and socioeconomic problems (Premilla D’Cruz and Shalini Bharat, 2001). In India, the single parent families are created mainly due to the death of the spouse, separation or desertion/divorces.

Conclusively the results of the analysis suggests that family structure of households is independent of caste or religious affiliation but is strongly dependent on economic status

and agricultural land owning status in addition to the demographic characteristics of the head of the household. The joint families are more favoured among the households who own agricultural land or who is having property or business.

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TABLE 1: MEAN HOUSEHOLD SIZE IN EACH TYPE OF FAMILY IN THE STATES OF INDIA BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1998-99

States	Urban					Rural				
	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>4.39</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>7.93</b>	<b>5.16</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>4.54</b>	<b>5.36</b>	<b>8.16</b>	<b>5.47</b>
<b>NORTH</b>										
New Delhi	3.48	4.55	5.46	7.62	5.32	5.32	5.03	5.33	7.52	5.62
Haryana	3.44	4.46	5.14	7.43	5.05	3.46	4.82	5.72	8.30	5.78
Himachal Pradesh	2.99	3.95	4.84	6.85	4.17	3.35	4.27	5.36	7.43	4.94
Jammu	3.54	4.71	5.82	8.25	5.65	3.96	5.40	6.29	9.79	6.72
Punjab	3.05	4.36	5.44	7.60	5.14	3.29	4.53	5.48	7.93	5.48
Rajasthan	3.58	4.74	5.58	9.08	6.08	3.32	4.93	5.70	8.58	6.23
<b>CENTRAL</b>										
Madhya Pradesh	3.78	4.71	5.29	8.95	5.62	3.31	4.56	5.43	8.33	5.59
Uttar Pradesh	3.75	5.15	5.88	8.91	6.05	3.51	5.04	5.75	8.99	6.29
<b>EAST</b>										
Bihar	3.69	5.18	5.94	8.56	6.02	3.74	4.90	5.72	8.65	6.11
Orissa	3.21	4.42	5.27	8.56	5.09	3.18	4.30	5.19	8.15	5.08
West Bengal	3.25	3.96	5.00	7.36	4.63	3.14	4.41	5.09	7.68	5.05
<b>NORTHEAST</b>										
Arunachal Pradesh	3.09	4.33	5.00	6.92	4.35	3.79	4.77	5.75	7.82	5.23
Assam	3.56	4.52	5.16	7.45	4.86	3.72	5.14	5.78	8.72	5.99
Manipur	3.96	5.14	5.55	8.85	5.67	4.06	5.07	5.58	7.46	5.41
Meghalaya	3.76	5.17	6.19	8.56	5.50	3.79	5.09	6.15	7.71	5.38
Mizoram	3.45	4.89	5.86	8.32	5.35	3.18	5.03	5.96	8.17	5.45
Nagaland	3.34	4.86	5.33	4.97	4.56	3.35	5.02	5.46	7.48	4.84
Sikkim	2.75	4.32	5.26	7.25	4.79	4.10	4.97	5.91	8.02	5.46
Tripura	3.43	3.77	4.23	6.33	3.99	3.20	4.63	5.24	7.53	5.04
<b>WEST</b>										
Goa	3.11	4.02	4.99	7.04	4.42	3.48	4.28	5.10	7.42	4.72
Gujarat	3.25	4.18	4.91	7.34	4.83	2.92	4.40	5.32	7.59	5.23
Maharashtra	3.31	4.29	5.24	7.45	5.07	3.04	4.32	5.23	7.53	5.17
<b>SOUTH</b>										
Andhra Pradesh	3.26	4.25	4.95	7.79	4.94	2.98	4.02	4.94	6.84	4.71
Karnataka	3.28	4.21	5.37	7.84	5.04	3.05	4.45	5.42	8.31	5.41
Kerala	3.18	3.83	5.15	7.63	4.98	2.90	4.14	5.13	7.41	5.13
Tamil Nadu	3.11	3.93	4.65	6.78	4.28	2.96	3.89	4.67	6.66	4.16

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1998-99

States	Urban						Rural					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>25572</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>66875</b>
<b>NORTH</b>												
New Delhi	2.0	3.6	54.1	16.8	23.5	2550	5.2	1.4	48.4	16.0	29.1	213
Haryana	3.1	3.0	57.7	15.0	21.2	896	2.0	2.5	51.0	18.6	25.9	1945
Himachal Pradesh	10.7	4.1	53.4	17.3	14.5	365	5.8	3.4	49.6	19.9	21.3	3077
Jammu	2.5	2.8	49.0	23.5	22.3	651	1.6	1.9	47.4	20.9	28.2	2133
Punjab	2.6	3.2	54.4	17.3	22.5	929	2.6	2.7	49.6	19.0	26.2	2038
Rajasthan	3.0	1.8	45.3	20.0	30.0	1590	2.5	1.9	42.5	17.8	35.4	4717
<b>CENTRAL</b>												
Madhya Pradesh	4.3	2.9	49.6	20.3	22.9	1711	3.2	2.4	48.8	19.0	26.6	5036
Uttar Pradesh	1.7	2.7	50.7	22.1	22.7	1849	2.6	2.2	43.6	20.3	31.4	6831
<b>EAST</b>												
Bihar	4.9	2.6	47.6	16.4	28.4	718	2.1	2.4	46.9	17.5	31.1	5619
Orissa	4.8	3.5	53.8	21.2	16.7	520	4.5	3.0	51.4	21.2	19.9	4166
West Bengal	5.1	3.9	52.7	19.7	18.7	1259	2.6	3.2	53.7	21.6	18.8	3466
<b>NORTHEAST</b>												
Arunachal Pradesh	6.8	6.4	59.4	20.1	7.3	219	5.4	4.6	47.5	28.5	14.0	1200
Assam	5.7	4.0	54.2	21.4	14.7	299	1.4	3.6	50.8	21.2	23.0	2821
Manipur	3.0	4.7	49.5	26.6	16.1	533	1.8	4.9	55.6	23.5	14.2	1154
Meghalaya	5.3	6.6	44.9	34.2	9.1	243	3.3	6.5	55.9	24.9	9.3	996
Mizoram	3.4	7.3	46.4	31.1	11.8	730	2.8	4.8	53.0	27.9	11.5	642
Nagaland	10.9	3.3	48.1	31.8	5.9	239	7.4	7.9	61.2	16.9	6.6	895
Sikkim	6.9	2.6	50.8	23.3	16.4	189	2.8	4.1	55.1	25.1	12.9	1107
Tripura	4.8	9.2	56.8	17.1	12.0	292	1.8	4.5	56.2	23.4	14.0	998
<b>WEST</b>												
Goa	5.4	6.0	55.0	20.1	13.5	666	5.3	7.3	48.8	24.3	14.4	933
Gujarat	4.3	3.4	51.7	19.4	21.2	1692	3.4	3.0	47.3	21.4	24.8	2238
Maharashtra	3.6	3.8	48.4	22.2	21.9	2531	2.8	2.9	46.8	23.8	23.7	3298
<b>SOUTH</b>												
Andhra Pradesh	3.0	2.9	53.4	22.0	18.6	966	3.9	2.8	48.4	23.0	22.0	2901
Karnataka	2.6	4.1	51.3	23.4	18.6	1552	3.2	3.5	46.0	24.7	22.6	2719
Kerala	1.8	3.2	47.5	23.5	24.0	682	2.8	3.3	44.3	22.3	27.3	2151
Tamil Nadu	4.5	4.9	56.9	20.4	13.4	1797	6.9	5.0	54.0	21.2	12.9	3484

TABLE 3: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY SEX OF HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, 1998-99

States	Male						Female					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>82872</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9500</b>
<b>NORTH</b>												
New Delhi	1.7	0.5	57.7	14.9	25.2	2539	7.7	37.4	7.2	38.3	9.5	222
Haryana	1.8	0.7	56.1	15.7	25.7	2613	8.4	26.0	18.5	37.4	9.7	227
Himachal Pradesh	5.1	0.7	54.0	17.2	22.9	2830	12.4	16.3	31.0	30.5	9.7	606
Jammu	1.5	0.7	48.8	20.9	28.0	2631	7.9	26.3	28.3	30.9	6.6	152
Punjab	1.4	0.7	54.4	16.8	26.7	2686	13.9	24.1	19.3	34.3	8.4	274
Rajasthan	1.5	0.8	44.9	17.1	35.7	5901	17.4	17.7	17.9	36.8	10.2	402
<b>CENTRAL</b>												
Madhya Pradesh	2.0	0.8	52.1	18.0	27.0	6271	22.1	25.1	8.2	37.1	7.6	475
Uttar Pradesh	1.5	0.8	47.3	19.1	31.3	7824	11.1	16.1	24.0	35.0	13.6	836
<b>EAST</b>												
Bihar	1.6	0.9	49.2	16.2	32.1	5914	13.0	23.2	17.1	32.9	13.7	422
Orissa	2.3	0.8	55.8	20.3	20.8	4265	26.5	25.6	10.2	30.3	7.3	422
West Bengal	1.8	0.5	58.7	18.8	20.2	4191	15.2	26.1	12.0	38.6	8.1	533
<b>NORTHEAST</b>												
Arunachal Pradesh	5.2	1.8	52.8	26.6	13.7	1308	10.1	41.3	9.2	34.9	4.6	109
Assam	1.3	0.9	55.1	19.2	23.5	2856	7.7	33.7	8.8	41.4	8.4	261
Manipur	1.2	0.8	60.6	21.5	16.0	1430	7.8	27.3	15.2	41.4	8.2	256
Meghalaya	2.9	0.9	64.3	21.9	10.1	1010	7.9	31.4	7.4	47.6	5.7	229
Mizoram	2.6	1.8	57.7	24.7	13.2	1168	6.4	31.4	2.5	56.9	2.9	204
Nagaland	6.1	1.6	66.2	18.9	7.2	996	22.2	46.7	2.2	28.9		135
Sikkim	3.4	1.3	60.1	21.0	14.2	1160	3.6	25.5	7.3	56.9	6.6	137
Tripura	1.0	0.6	62.0	21.7	14.7	1148	14.9	46.1	10.6	24.8	3.5	141
<b>WEST</b>												
Goa	3.1	0.7	62.8	17.0	16.3	1221	12.4	26.2	14.3	40.5	6.6	378
Gujarat	2.1	0.7	53.5	18.7	25.1	3541	19.5	25.8	9.6	37.8	7.3	384
Maharashtra	1.6	0.5	51.8	21.5	24.6	5283	17.4	30.8	6.4	39.1	6.2	545
<b>SOUTH</b>												
Andhra Pradesh	1.1	0.3	55.2	20.3	23.0	3448	24.7	23.5	3.6	42.4	5.8	413
Karnataka	1.0	0.5	54.1	21.4	22.9	3754	16.9	27.0	2.9	44.7	8.4	514
Kerala	0.8	0.6	54.3	15.7	28.6	2207	9.0	12.6	12.5	46.6	19.4	625
Tamil Nadu	1.9	0.8	63.5	18.9	14.9	4427	28.1	26.4	10.6	31.2	3.8	853

TABLE 4: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY AGE OF HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, 1998-99

States	<40 Yrs					40-59 Yrs					60+ Yrs							
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>71186</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>9947</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>11306</b>
<b>NORTH</b>																		
New Delhi	1.3	1.2	63.5	15.1	18.9	2212	9.9	30.0	9.4	20.7	30.0	203	3.4	2.6	16.7	25.0	52.3	348
Haryana	1.4	1.0	63.8	14.9	18.9	2250	6.2	18.1	11.9	21.1	42.7	227	5.8	3.6	12.7	30.9	47.1	363
Himachal Pradesh	3.4	1.5	63.8	16.2	15.1	2449	13.9	16.1	16.6	23.1	30.3	416	13.5	2.9	15.4	31.5	36.7	578
Jammu	0.8	0.6	55.6	19.9	23.2	2339	8.2	19.0	7.1	26.6	39.1	184	6.9	3.5	6.6	32.0	51.0	259
Punjab	0.5	0.9	65.0	16.0	17.7	2155	5.9	19.0	15.0	20.9	39.2	273	9.1	2.6	13.8	27.4	47.1	537
Rajasthan	0.7	0.7	53.2	16.8	28.7	4852	9.1	9.3	10.1	19.7	51.8	674	8.6	2.7	9.9	27.0	51.9	781
<b>CENTRAL</b>																		
Madhya Pradesh	1.3	0.9	59.0	16.9	21.8	5181	7.8	14.5	14.8	26.5	36.3	702	12.7	2.1	17.3	28.1	39.8	861
Uttar Pradesh	0.7	1.0	55.7	17.4	25.2	6573	8.0	13.6	10.5	34.0	33.8	711	7.7	2.4	12.8	29.4	47.6	1396
<b>EAST</b>																		
Bihar	0.8	1.5	55.4	15.1	27.1	5075	10.4	9.6	15.9	23.9	40.2	624	7.1	2.4	10.2	28.9	51.5	637
Orissa	1.8	1.4	60.1	19.8	16.9	3689	13.9	14.8	26.2	21.7	23.4	466	14.8	4.3	15.6	30.3	35.0	532
West Bengal	1.2	1.8	62.5	18.2	16.3	3820	11.1	12.5	18.6	29.8	28.0	440	13.1	7.3	11.6	37.1	30.8	464
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																		
Arunachal Pradesh	4.1	2.5	55.1	25.6	12.7	1219	14.5	25.8	12.9	35.5	11.3	124	15.4	9.0	16.7	38.5	20.5	78
Assam	0.8	1.2	57.7	19.6	20.6	2717	10.4	26.6	8.3	24.5	30.3	241	5.0	10.0	3.1	43.1	38.8	160
Manipur	0.7	1.4	63.9	20.5	13.5	1382	9.8	28.1	9.2	35.9	17.0	153	8.6	12.5	5.9	48.7	24.3	152
Meghalaya	1.7	3.4	65.2	21.9	7.8	980	10.3	23.7	11.5	40.4	14.1	156	12.6	10.7	8.7	51.5	16.5	103
Mizoram	2.1	2.0	63.1	22.2	10.6	1040	9.4	29.6	13.2	38.4	9.4	159	4.0	9.7	1.7	64.2	20.5	176
Nagaland	3.7	1.9	67.7	19.9	6.7	908	25.0	29.3	19.0	20.7	6.0	116	26.6	25.7	22.9	20.2	4.6	109
Sikkim	2.5	1.4	64.3	19.5	12.2	1071	12.1	21.5	12.1	38.3	15.9	107	4.2	10.0	3.3	60.0	22.5	120
Tripura	1.1	1.9	64.5	20.7	11.7	1085	6.5	43.0	10.8	29.0	10.8	93	12.5	9.8	15.2	28.6	33.9	112
<b>WEST</b>																		
Goa	1.9	1.3	67.4	16.8	12.7	1134	11.8	28.6	16.3	30.0	13.3	203	14.9	13.4	9.6	42.1	19.9	261
Gujarat	1.1	1.5	60.4	18.3	18.7	2925	9.1	11.5	17.1	24.3	38.0	539	14.6	4.1	15.9	30.3	35.2	466
Maharashtra	1.3	1.6	56.1	22.1	18.9	4572	9.7	15.1	17.0	24.4	33.7	647	10.0	3.8	15.6	29.3	41.3	608
<b>SOUTH</b>																		
Andhra Pradesh	0.8	1.6	59.7	20.0	18.0	2894	7.5	9.9	20.8	29.0	32.8	548	18.4	1.9	18.6	33.5	27.6	424
Karnataka	0.7	1.9	58.0	21.7	17.7	3327	8.5	14.0	15.5	31.5	30.4	470	13.3	6.4	9.5	34.1	36.7	472
Kerala	0.3	0.8	62.7	15.7	20.5	1900	6.5	16.1	14.5	32.7	30.1	385	7.5	2.9	5.5	39.1	45.0	547
Tamil Nadu	1.3	1.9	67.0	18.8	11.0	3878	14.0	19.7	21.3	26.9	18.1	751	25.7	6.2	21.8	26.8	19.5	650

TABLE 5: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY HEAD'S LEVEL OF EDUCATION, 1998-99

States	None					Primary					Secondary+							
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>36738</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>25761</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>29863</b>
<b>NORTH</b>																		
New Delhi	4.5	9.7	41.3	21.9	22.6	421	1.8	4.2	48.8	18.0	27.3	451	1.8	1.9	57.5	15.4	23.4	1890
Haryana	2.7	4.6	45.0	20.2	27.6	1114	2.6	2.4	56.5	15.9	22.7	503	1.9	1.1	59.0	15.6	22.4	1223
Himachal Pradesh	7.4	5.9	37.5	22.3	26.8	1159	4.3	3.7	54.4	18.5	19.2	866	6.8	1.4	57.5	18.0	16.3	1409
Jammu	2.1	3.4	43.5	20.6	30.4	1356	1.8	1.0	53.3	19.1	24.9	398	1.5	0.8	51.2	23.6	22.9	1029
Punjab	3.8	4.3	45.6	17.7	28.6	1149	2.5	2.0	50.1	18.4	26.9	591	1.4	2.0	56.7	19.2	20.8	1221
Rajasthan	3.4	3.0	40.9	18.4	34.3	2912	1.8	1.0	42.3	17.5	37.4	1465	1.8	0.8	47.3	18.8	31.3	1923
<b>CENTRAL</b>																		
Madhya Pradesh	4.7	3.8	47.0	18.6	25.8	2762	2.0	2.0	47.8	19.5	28.7	2180	3.3	1.1	53.8	20.1	21.8	1802
Uttar Pradesh	3.8	3.5	42.1	21.0	29.6	3839	1.8	1.8	44.5	19.3	32.6	1854	1.0	1.0	49.3	20.9	27.8	2962
<b>EAST</b>																		
Bihar	2.5	3.8	48.4	17.4	27.9	3156	1.7	1.4	44.2	17.8	34.9	1328	2.7	0.8	46.6	17.0	32.9	1852
Orissa	6.4	5.2	51.8	19.8	16.8	1865	2.3	2.2	51.4	20.3	23.9	1801	5.0	0.7	52.0	25.3	17.0	1021
West Bengal	4.6	5.9	51.2	22.2	16.1	1800	2.0	2.4	54.3	19.0	22.3	1522	3.1	1.2	55.4	21.9	18.4	1399
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																		
Arunachal Pradesh	5.1	9.0	44.3	26.0	15.6	546	5.0	3.7	53.6	26.7	11.0	401	6.6	1.1	51.5	29.0	11.9	472
Assam	1.8	6.0	50.0	19.7	22.5	1249	1.7	2.7	51.4	19.7	24.5	955	2.0	1.4	52.6	24.5	19.5	912
Manipur	5.6	12.5	42.5	24.7	14.8	393	1.0	3.6	54.1	24.1	17.2	390	1.2	2.0	58.4	24.6	13.8	904
Meghalaya	4.4	8.5	52.3	24.6	10.1	495	3.7	6.4	56.1	26.8	7.1	437	3.0	3.6	53.1	29.5	10.8	305
Mizoram	3.4	10.3	34.9	41.8	9.6	146	3.8	6.5	45.7	29.6	14.4	741	2.3	4.5	59.6	25.6	8.0	485
Nagaland	11.7	16.7	49.4	15.0	7.2	360	4.9	2.5	67.9	18.1	6.6	364	7.8	2.7	58.1	26.2	5.1	408
Sikkim	3.7	8.4	43.4	28.9	15.6	463	1.8	1.1	62.3	20.0	14.8	454	5.0	1.6	58.7	25.3	9.5	380
Tripura	2.9	6.5	60.2	21.2	9.1	339	2.1	5.7	52.6	22.4	17.2	513	2.5	4.6	58.0	22.2	12.6	436
<b>WEST</b>																		
Goa	5.9	13.7	36.7	28.3	15.4	460	5.0	5.4	50.0	22.0	17.7	542	5.2	2.5	64.2	18.7	9.4	595
Gujarat	6.5	5.7	41.2	23.9	22.7	1278	2.2	2.1	47.8	20.3	27.6	1270	2.7	1.7	57.8	17.7	20.0	1376
Maharashtra	5.8	6.0	38.6	24.7	24.9	1695	1.8	3.1	44.9	22.6	27.7	1855	2.2	1.5	56.3	22.4	17.5	2279
<b>SOUTH</b>																		
Andhra Pradesh	4.7	4.5	45.6	23.3	21.9	1939	3.0	1.5	52.0	21.7	21.9	1020	2.0	0.7	56.0	22.5	18.8	901
Karnataka	4.4	6.4	42.7	24.7	21.9	1745	1.7	2.4	47.2	25.0	23.6	1159	2.2	1.4	55.4	22.9	18.2	1364
Kerala	5.8	5.8	26.0	30.7	31.8	535	2.0	3.4	42.0	20.5	32.1	1276	1.6	1.7	59.0	20.9	16.9	1020
Tamil Nadu	11.0	8.7	47.0	21.3	12.0	1980	3.8	3.3	61.2	18.3	13.3	1537	2.7	2.2	58.4	22.6	14.1	1763

TABLE 6: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY HOUSEHOLD STANDARD OF LIVING, 1998-99

States	Low					Medium					High							
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>33524</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>41011</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>16841</b>
<b>NORTH</b>																		
New Delhi	8.0	5.7	55.2	19.5	11.5	87	3.6	5.0	60.4	17.2	13.8	813	1.2	2.6	50.8	16.7	28.7	1767
Haryana	3.8	5.6	64.1	17.4	9.1	340	3.0	2.6	56.9	17.6	19.9	1351	1.1	1.9	45.5	17.4	34.0	1137
Himachal Pradesh	15.7	7.6	58.2	11.2	7.4	421	5.9	3.2	49.9	21.3	19.7	2070	3.3	2.4	46.3	19.8	28.3	923
Jammu	5.3	3.2	63.8	21.5	6.2	340	1.8	2.1	47.7	21.8	26.6	1764	0.3	1.5	40.1	20.3	37.9	676
Punjab	10.6	3.2	64.0	15.9	6.3	189	2.8	4.2	59.1	17.8	16.2	1154	1.4	1.8	43.8	19.5	33.5	1609
Rajasthan	4.8	3.0	54.1	16.9	21.2	1650	1.9	1.7	41.5	19.5	35.5	3340	1.7	0.7	33.3	17.2	47.2	1265
<b>CENTRAL</b>																		
Madhya Pradesh	5.9	3.3	59.2	18.2	13.5	2481	2.0	2.2	44.3	20.2	31.3	3185	2.1	1.5	39.4	19.5	37.5	1060
Uttar Pradesh	5.2	3.4	54.7	19.8	16.9	2920	1.1	1.6	41.1	21.5	34.6	4260	0.6	1.6	37.6	19.8	40.4	1318
<b>EAST</b>																		
Bihar	2.6	3.2	54.2	17.4	22.6	3638	2.2	1.6	38.2	17.3	40.7	2149	2.0	0.6	33.2	17.8	46.4	545
Orissa	5.6	4.2	58.1	20.1	12.1	2760	3.2	1.5	43.4	23.2	28.6	1484	1.9	1.4	39.6	20.5	36.6	424
West Bengal	4.6	4.3	59.8	19.5	11.7	2128	2.1	2.8	49.7	22.6	22.8	1913	2.0	1.8	43.3	23.0	29.9	605
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																		
Arunachal Pradesh	8.3	7.1	55.5	20.2	8.9	337	4.7	4.7	45.0	30.9	14.8	813	5.7	2.6	53.3	25.8	12.7	229
Assam	2.7	4.8	57.6	19.0	15.9	1425	1.1	2.8	45.5	23.4	27.3	1265	1.2	2.4	45.8	22.9	27.7	336
Manipur	5.2	7.6	60.9	20.6	5.7	578	0.7	3.3	53.0	25.9	17.2	889	0.5	4.2	36.0	30.2	29.1	189
Meghalaya	5.5	7.2	62.6	19.1	5.7	601	2.2	6.3	46.9	33.2	11.4	542		3.8	32.1	41.0	23.1	78
Mizoram	7.5	10.9	59.2	19.9	2.5	201	3.0	6.4	50.7	29.7	10.2	927		1.8	36.8	36.4	25.0	228
Nagaland	14.5	11.6	53.1	15.2	5.6	303	6.4	6.2	62.2	18.7	6.5	674	2.5	1.6	50.8	38.5	6.6	122
Sikkim	5.3	7.0	64.3	11.1	12.3	171	3.3	3.8	54.6	26.0	12.2	866	2.1	1.7	46.4	31.0	18.8	239
Tripura	3.7	7.6	61.8	21.4	5.5	490	1.8	4.2	54.5	22.1	17.3	660	0.8	4.7	45.7	24.0	24.8	129
<b>WEST</b>																		
Goa	11.8	10.5	51.5	19.2	7.0	229	4.7	8.6	50.7	23.9	12.1	653	3.5	3.7	52.1	22.8	18.0	707
Gujarat	6.6	4.8	53.1	20.9	14.5	979	3.5	3.1	48.2	22.1	23.1	1838	1.7	1.8	47.5	17.7	31.4	1110
Maharashtra	4.9	4.7	50.0	24.7	15.8	1883	2.7	2.9	46.4	23.1	24.9	2560	1.2	2.6	46.9	20.5	28.8	1206
<b>SOUTH</b>																		
Andhra Pradesh	6.3	4.1	50.2	23.6	15.7	1579	2.3	2.1	50.2	22.2	23.1	1718	0.4	1.1	47.0	21.3	30.3	555
Karnataka	5.6	6.2	49.4	25.0	13.8	1416	1.9	2.2	47.0	25.6	23.4	1970	1.2	3.0	47.8	20.0	28.1	867
Kerala	8.3	7.1	49.6	21.6	13.3	518	1.3	3.0	44.0	23.6	28.1	1519	1.1	1.3	44.2	21.2	32.2	796
Tamil Nadu	11.2	6.8	54.9	19.7	7.5	2192	2.5	4.0	57.8	21.2	14.5	2324	2.5	2.2	46.1	23.0	26.1	712

TABLE 7: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY RELIGION, 1998-99

States	Hindu						Non-Hindu					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>75750</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>16697</b>
<b>NORTH</b>												
New Delhi	2.2	3.7	53.2	17.1	23.8	2328	2.1	2.5	55.8	15.2	24.4	434
Haryana	2.4	2.9	52.3	17.7	24.8	2513	1.8	1.2	59.3	15.6	22.0	327
Himachal Pradesh	6.2	3.5	49.8	19.7	20.8	3206	8.5	3.0	53.2	18.7	16.6	235
Jammu	2.9	2.6	54.4	19.0	21.1	1258	1.0	1.6	42.3	23.5	31.5	1527
Punjab	2.7	3.0	52.0	20.0	22.3	1242	2.5	2.8	50.4	17.4	26.9	1725
Rajasthan	2.6	1.8	42.8	18.4	34.3	5587	2.2	2.2	45.8	17.7	32.1	719
<b>CENTRAL</b>												
Madhya Pradesh	3.5	2.5	49.1	19.3	25.7	6217	3.2	2.7	48.9	19.3	25.9	528
Uttar Pradesh	2.5	2.4	44.1	20.9	30.2	7169	1.9	2.0	50.0	19.8	26.4	1512
<b>EAST</b>												
Bihar	2.5	2.3	45.8	17.3	32.1	5271	1.8	3.1	52.9	17.7	24.5	1068
Orissa	4.5	3.0	51.6	21.1	19.8	4522	6.0	4.8	54.8	22.9	11.4	166
West Bengal	3.5	3.4	52.7	21.8	18.7	3580	2.7	3.4	55.9	19.0	19.0	1145
<b>NORTHEAST</b>												
Arunachal Pradesh	8.5	5.3	58.1	20.3	7.9	532	3.9	4.6	44.1	31.3	16.0	887
Assam	2.4	4.3	50.8	22.5	20.0	2087	0.7	2.3	51.8	18.5	26.8	1035
Manipur	2.5	5.3	52.0	22.5	17.7	835	1.9	4.3	55.4	26.4	12.0	852
Meghalaya	8.4	3.4	58.0	19.3	10.9	119	3.2	6.9	53.3	27.5	9.1	1120
Mizoram	8.8	2.9	52.9	26.5	8.8	34	3.1	6.3	49.3	29.6	11.7	1340
Nagaland	8.5	5.1	58.1	13.7	14.5	117	8.0	7.3	58.5	20.8	5.5	1016
Sikkim	3.5	3.1	56.2	23.7	13.5	777	3.3	5.0	51.8	26.5	13.4	521
Tripura	2.4	5.9	55.7	22.7	13.3	1148	4.2	2.8	61.5	16.1	15.4	143
<b>WEST</b>												
Goa	4.3	6.0	54.0	20.4	15.4	1007	7.1	7.9	46.9	26.5	11.6	593
Gujarat	3.8	3.1	49.0	20.7	23.5	3526	4.0	4.0	51.0	19.3	21.8	404
Maharashtra	3.0	3.1	47.6	23.0	23.3	4643	3.6	4.2	47.2	23.4	21.5	1184
<b>SOUTH</b>												
Andhra Pradesh	3.7	2.9	49.3	23.0	21.1	3395	3.2	2.1	52.4	20.9	21.4	473
Karnataka	3.0	3.8	47.7	24.5	21.1	3648	3.0	3.2	49.4	22.6	21.7	623
Kerala	2.6	4.2	46.1	23.3	23.9	1560	2.5	2.2	43.8	21.7	29.8	1273
Tamil Nadu	6.4	4.8	55.2	21.0	12.5	4703	3.6	5.9	52.8	20.3	17.4	576

TABLE 8: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY CASTE, 1998-99

States	SC/ST						Others					
	Single	Broken Nuclear	Nuclear	Suppl Nuclear	Joint Family	No. HH	Single	Broken Nuclear	Nuclear	Suppl Nuclear	Joint Family	No. HH
<b>India</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>25698</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>61691</b>
<b>NORTH</b>												
New Delhi	3.1	4.5	51.3	17.9	23.2	513	2.0	3.3	54.1	16.5	24.1	2237
Haryana	2.6	3.3	56.3	18.6	19.2	609	2.2	2.5	52.2	17.1	25.9	2230
Himachal Pradesh	5.3	3.0	56.3	17.2	18.2	791	6.7	3.7	48.1	20.3	21.3	2644
Jammu	2.3	3.2	59.7	18.4	16.5	474	1.7	1.8	45.4	22.0	29.0	2293
Punjab	2.3	3.1	58.6	16.8	19.3	882	2.6	2.8	47.8	19.2	27.6	2078
Rajasthan	2.9	2.2	46.6	17.1	31.3	1929	2.4	1.7	41.6	18.8	35.4	4347
<b>CENTRAL</b>												
Madhya Pradesh	3.3	2.8	50.9	20.8	22.2	2688	3.6	2.3	47.9	18.3	28.0	4027
Uttar Pradesh	3.1	2.8	46.6	20.9	26.5	1938	2.2	2.2	43.4	20.3	32.0	5784
<b>EAST</b>												
Bihar	2.4	2.8	52.4	16.6	25.7	1937	2.3	2.1	44.7	17.1	33.7	4286
Orissa	4.8	3.6	56.3	21.0	14.2	2026	4.3	2.5	48.2	21.3	23.7	2608
West Bengal	3.3	4.1	54.2	22.0	16.4	1416	3.0	2.8	53.0	21.4	19.8	2738
<b>NORTHEAST</b>												
Arunachal Pradesh	4.2	4.8	47.0	30.0	14.1	1152	12.7	5.6	58.2	15.5	8.0	213
Assam	1.9	4.4	51.1	21.0	21.6	971	2.2	3.4	50.9	22.7	20.8	1351
Manipur	2.5	4.8	53.5	27.4	11.7	725	1.9	4.9	53.1	23.3	16.8	748
Meghalaya	3.7	7.0	53.3	26.7	9.2	1122	10.3	3.4	48.3	31.0	6.9	29
Mizoram	3.2	6.1	49.4	29.5	11.8	1356	--	25.0	75.0	--	--	4
Nagaland	7.3	7.6	58.5	20.8	5.9	1005	16.2	1.5	63.2	7.4	11.8	68
Sikkim	3.7	5.7	49.8	26.2	14.5	454	3.2	2.9	56.9	24.0	12.9	836
Tripura	1.7	4.1	59.4	22.2	12.6	483	2.8	6.8	54.0	22.5	13.9	717
<b>WEST</b>												
Goa	5.7	5.7	51.4	19.0	18.1	105	5.5	6.9	51.0	22.3	14.3	1185
Gujarat	3.3	3.3	48.0	21.8	23.6	1347	4.2	3.1	49.7	19.8	23.3	2421
Maharashtra	3.5	3.8	48.9	24.1	19.7	1371	3.0	3.2	47.0	22.9	24.0	4351
<b>SOUTH</b>												
Andhra Pradesh	3.7	2.6	49.3	23.0	21.4	970	3.7	2.9	49.6	22.6	21.2	2810
Karnataka	3.3	4.4	47.3	24.6	20.4	956	2.7	3.6	48.0	24.5	21.2	2661
Kerala	2.4	4.4	49.8	21.5	21.8	293	2.7	3.2	45.3	22.8	26.0	2200
Tamil Nadu	5.6	6.4	57.7	19.4	10.9	1289	6.3	4.5	54.1	21.3	13.8	3983

TABLE 9: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FAMILIES IN STATES OF INDIA BY AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNING STATUS, 1998-99

States	No						Yes					
	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total	Single	Broken	Nuclear	Suppl	Joint	Total
<b>India</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>46323</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>46113</b>
<b>NORTH</b>												
New Delhi	1.7	3.8	54.6	16.8	23.1	2366	5.3	1.5	47.3	17.0	28.8	393
Haryana	2.2	3.1	59.3	15.6	19.8	1647	2.5	2.1	44.5	20.1	30.8	1192
Himachal Pradesh	11.1	5.6	58.4	12.1	12.7	676	5.2	3.0	47.9	21.5	22.4	2768
Jammu	2.6	3.4	54.7	21.1	18.2	768	1.5	1.6	45.1	21.6	30.1	2016
Punjab	2.5	3.2	56.2	17.3	20.7	1922	2.5	2.2	41.6	20.7	33.0	1041
Rajasthan	4.0	2.4	48.6	17.7	27.3	1968	2.0	1.6	40.7	18.6	37.1	4338
<b>CENTRAL</b>												
Madhya Pradesh	5.2	3.2	55.8	18.1	17.7	2880	2.1	1.9	44.0	20.3	31.6	3865
Uttar Pradesh	2.8	2.9	54.7	19.8	19.9	3041	2.3	2.0	39.9	21.1	34.8	5639
<b>EAST</b>												
Bihar	2.7	3.0	51.7	17.5	25.1	2859	2.2	1.9	43.2	17.3	35.5	3479
Orissa	6.5	3.9	57.8	19.3	12.5	1977	3.1	2.4	47.2	22.6	24.7	2709
West Bengal	4.0	3.9	57.7	20.6	13.8	2897	2.2	2.6	46.6	22.0	26.6	1827
<b>NORTHEAST</b>												
Arunachal Pradesh	9.1	5.8	54.4	21.5	9.1	274	4.8	4.5	48.2	28.6	13.9	1144
Assam	2.7	4.4	55.7	20.4	16.8	1528	0.9	3.0	46.8	22.0	27.4	1590
Manipur	2.9	6.3	57.8	21.8	11.2	824	1.5	3.4	49.8	27.0	18.3	863
Meghalaya	4.4	7.2	55.2	25.7	7.5	797	2.5	5.4	51.2	28.4	12.4	443
Mizoram	3.9	7.1	50.7	29.3	9.0	854	1.9	4.6	47.6	30.0	15.9	517
Nagaland	12.1	6.9	53.0	22.5	5.7	423	5.8	7.0	61.7	18.6	6.9	710
Sikkim	6.1	4.2	58.0	19.6	12.0	424	2.1	3.6	52.9	27.3	14.2	872
Tripura	2.6	7.3	58.6	21.9	9.5	834	2.4	2.4	52.0	22.3	21.0	458
<b>WEST</b>												
Goa	5.5	7.3	52.8	22.2	12.2	1092	4.9	5.3	48.2	23.5	18.0	506
Gujarat	4.2	4.1	53.9	20.2	17.6	2246	3.2	2.0	42.8	21.1	30.8	1683
Maharashtra	3.7	4.7	50.6	22.9	18.1	2908	2.5	1.9	44.6	23.3	27.7	2918
<b>SOUTH</b>												
Andhra Pradesh	5.2	3.6	52.6	22.2	16.4	2109	1.8	1.9	46.2	23.3	26.8	1757
Karnataka	3.8	4.9	51.6	23.0	16.7	2104	2.2	2.5	44.4	25.4	25.5	2168
Kerala	3.0	3.7	46.2	21.8	25.3	1805	1.9	2.5	43.1	23.9	28.7	1026
Tamil Nadu	7.2	5.3	56.3	20.2	10.9	3710	3.5	4.1	51.7	22.5	18.3	1571

TABLE 10:  
DETERMINANTS OF FAMILY STRUCTURE IN INDIA AND ITS STATES, 1998-99

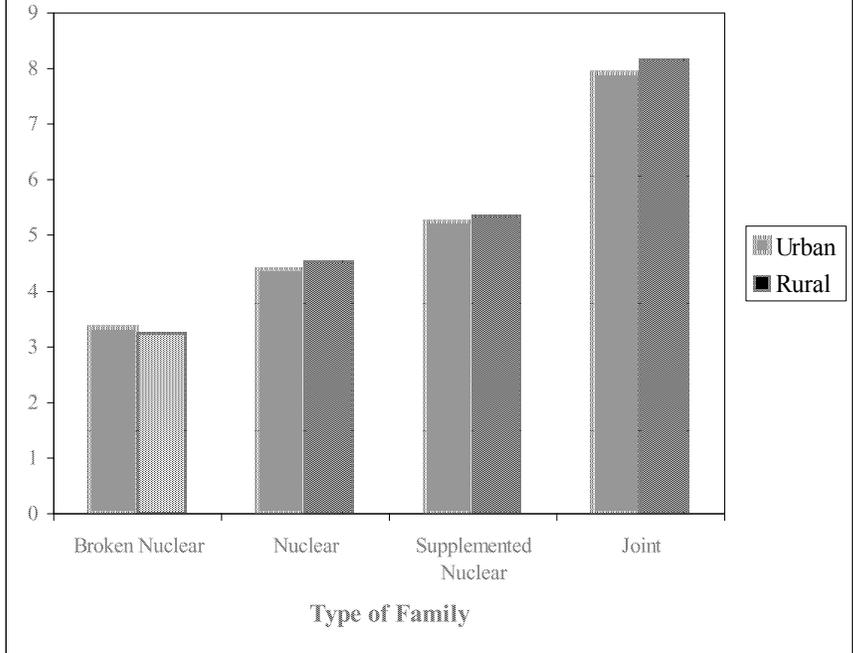
States	Education	Age	Sex	Place of Residence	Religion	Caste	Owning agricultural land	Standard of Living
<b>India</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
<b>NORTH</b>								
New Delhi	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×
Haryana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Himachal Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Jammu	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓
Punjab	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓
Rajasthan	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
<b>CENTRAL</b>								
Madhya Pradesh	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
Uttar Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
<b>EAST</b>								
Bihar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓
Orissa	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓
West Bengal	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
<b>NORTHEAST</b>								
Arunachal Pradesh	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Assam	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓
Manipur	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Meghalaya	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Mizoram	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Nagaland	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
Sikkim	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Tripura	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
<b>WEST</b>								
Goa	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	×
Gujarat	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Maharashtra	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
<b>SOUTH</b>								
Andhra Pradesh	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
Karnataka	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
Kerala	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓
Tamil Nadu	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓

Note: Dependent Variable (Non-nuclear – 0, Nuclear – 1)

✓ Association significant

× Association not significant

**Figure 1**  
**Mean Family Size by Family Structure in**  
**Urban and Rural areas, 1998-99**



**Figure 2**  
**Distribution of Family Structure in India,**  
**1981, 1992-93 & 1998-99**

